

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 17, 2004, in which claims 7-12 were allowed and claims 1-6 and 13-27 were rejected. With this Response, a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection Over Prior Patent No. 6,730,883 is filed. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-27.

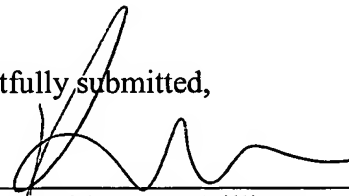
An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed on May 24, 2004. In the Office Action, Examiner Moore asked for copies of 6 foreign references listed on the May 24, 2004 Form 1449. As requested by Examiner, filed herewith is a new form 1449 listing the 6 foreign references and copies of the 6 foreign references.

With this Response, a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection Over Prior Patent No. 6,730,883 is filed. After filing of this terminal disclaimer to overcome the provisional double patenting rejection, all issues in this case are resolved, and the case is ready for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-27.

Applicant submits that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully request early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Date: November 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Name: Kathleen M. Williams
Registration No.: 34,380
Customer No.: 27495
Palmer & Dodge LLP
111 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02199-7613
Tel. (617) 239-0100